

CLUB PAPER BY MRS. SMITH

At the meeting of the Mothers' and Teachers' club of the Polk street school some day since the following paper was read by Mrs. S. H. Smith, and so favorable was the impression made upon all present of the worth of the article and so keen the appreciation of its sound logic, that by unanimous request Mrs. Smith was persuaded to permit the club the privilege of publishing the paper for the benefit of those not present.

PRACTICAL EDUCATION FOR OUR DAUGHTERS.

To treat of the subject under consideration with any degree of thoroughness would require a volume instead of a ten-minute paper. And since there are many excellent works on education which we can read at our leisure with greater profit than we should be likely to derive from a scrambling effort to cover so large a field in so limited a space of time, I shall confine my remarks to what I consider the most neglected details in our present day educational methods. Also I shall treat the matter wholly from the standpoint of the mother's duty in the premises.

Since our children's education as human beings must take precedence in importance over their education as boys or girls, it is well to first consider the things every child should be taught, irrespective of sex. I am not now referring to the subjects commonly found in the course of study of the public schools. To dispose of this part of our subject at once, I wish only to say that such course of study seems to be almost as good as an adopted just now, that conscientious and expert educators are at work trying to improve it as much and as fast as possible, and that teachers as a rule can be safely trusted to do their best, considering the hampering conditions under which they work. Personally, I have never known one who failed to listen with courtesy and an open mind to any reasonable suggestions offered by a mother concerning her own child, and who would not carry out such suggestions as well as lay in her power.

And right here I wish to call your attention to the first point that seems to me to be too much overlooked. We mothers put off teaching our little children too long, and then try to shift too much of our own responsibility on to the already overburdened shoulders of teachers and Sunday school teachers. I do not believe this is usually done in any spirit of shirking. Rather it is caused mostly by a lack of self-confidence, and fear lest we shall, by doing the wrong thing, hinder, instead of help, our children's progress. At one time it was a fad to cram children with a mass of undigested learning, until both the mental and physical health of all but the strongest were impaired; at present the pendulum seems to be swinging as far as possible the other way, and really intelligent people will claim that there should be no serious attempt to teach a child before its eighth year. Women are much too prone to listen to any nonsensical opinions on education, without reasoning the thing out for themselves.

Every mother can see her child learning something new every day, before it is out of long clothes. And because directed effort always means better results than undirected, there are many fundamental things that can be taught almost from the cradle up; and they can be better taught by a sincere mother than by anyone else in the world.

By fundamental things I mean partly the virtues of truth, justice and kindness; partly the qualities of thoroughness and concentration; partly the proper use of such faculties as are most active during early childhood.

During the first year or two of its existence the child is almost wholly occupied in learning the things necessary for self-preservation (a matter much too important to be entrusted to even a mother, so Nature attends to that herself). Little by little, however, the mother can direct his efforts to useful purpose without seeming to try to teach him. This is a really delightful secret of successful teaching—so long as you are apparently only helping a child play, you can teach him things he would by no means learn under the name of "lessons" or "work."

It is easier for a child to tell the truth than a falsehood, if he is not afraid of being punished for the fault he is trying to conceal. Nearly all children start to telling falsehoods from this cause and the habit. We should value truth-telling so highly as to never dream of punishing a child for any fault, however grave, if it is confessed promptly. Nor must a mother who wishes her children to grow up truthful ever allow herself to deviate in the least particular from the truth in their presence. Listening to one little white fib from mother will prove more disastrous than hearing a hundred of the blackest from anybody else. As for justice and kindness, the child whose life is made to square with those two virtues from his cradle, in dealing with little brothers and sisters, playmates and animals, has learned what will be more valuable in after life than anything he may get out of nine-tenths of the books he ever opens.

If I lay stress on this part of the

child's education as something a mother should personally see to, it is because so many women seem to implicitly believe that sending their children to Sunday school regularly is about all that is necessary to make them grow up into good men and women. I mean no disrespect to Sunday schools when I say that a little religious instruction one hour in the week can hardly relieve mothers of all their responsibility for a child's moral training.

As to the qualities of thoroughness and concentration we are surely all agreed that they make for the highest degree of efficiency, and without efficiency education is as dead as faith without works. I should say that the best possible training for efficiency is the doing of everything undertaken, even in our earliest years, as thoroughly as our present state of knowledge renders possible. To be always thorough is so difficult of accomplishment, that few indeed who have not been trained in the way by both teachers and parents, especially parents, ever practice it of their own volition in later life. No child old enough to talk, and play the simplest games, is too young to be trained toward both thoroughness and concentration. Observation and memory are the two faculties most capable of responding to this early training, the wise mother encourages her child to talk with her about what it sees and hears, and brings out by judicious questions the important points of the subject under discussion. She is never too busy to answer its questions, not perfunctorily, but to the best of her ability. In whatever trips they make together, whether these be short or long, she does not fail to call his attention to things of interest and beauty, and afterwards question him in order to recall them to his memory. In fact, she is constantly on the alert to help make these early impressions clean cut and vital. We can teach a child to remember anything he understands by telling it in an interesting way. The power of telling a story entertainingly is the most effective part of a mother's educational equipment, and one she should spare no pains in acquiring, if she does not already possess it.

In training her daughters no subject is of more importance than what is generally known as domestic science. The life-work of the vast majority of women is the making and keeping of homes. That the training for so well-nigh universal a calling should be most thorough, would seem to need no mention. Yet how very often it is totally neglected.

Happy indeed, happy and fortunate is the tiny girl who is allowed to trot at her mother's side all day and take part in her occupations; to cook when mother cooks, to dust when mother dusts, to sweep with her pumy broom when mother sweeps, and to sew on dolly's garments when mother sews on hers. For she learns without conscious effort what no amount of school training in domestic science in later years could quite give her. She learns not only how to care for a home; she learns to look upon the work as enjoyable. Of course that kind of home training means vast trouble for the mother, but I have long since concluded that being a mother is synonymous with taking trouble with children that nobody else would take. For if she desires the best results the mother must superintend these baby efforts at housekeeping as carefully as she will in later years superintend the learning of a sonata.

I should hate to be understood as advocating turning a little child into a household drudge. Quite the contrary; unless we can make our daughters' efforts at housework seem to her a pleasure and a privilege, we had better leave that part of her training to more competent hands. It is sure to be the greatest misfortune for any human being to look with dislike upon an occupation she will probably be engaged in all her life. At this day, with the exception of the immensely rich, any woman who has a well-cared for home and family must take some part in the labor involved; to the exception, this paper has no possible reference.

And this brings us to consider that portion of our girls who will not marry. Under our rapidly changing economic conditions, more and more women are preferring to remain single, at least during their early youth. They seem more and more to share the opinion of that bright girl who said, "Marriage is like going to Heaven—it is indefinitely postponed." These women are not often content to remain in their childhood homes without any occupation, even where this is possible.

This makes a girl's education a more difficult matter than a boy's. He has to be trained in but one profession; if she is rendered independent she must be trained in two. Since we must all acknowledge that it is unsafe to omit the training in home-making, it would seem that an exhaustive study of some allied subject, so that she can use her knowledge commercially, should need arise, or should she so desire, would be the logical course for most women. For it would seem the part of wisdom to choose some profession that would be an aid and not a hindrance

to her home life should she later decide to marry.

This is carrying us into the realms of higher education, however, with which we mothers of children in the public schools have as yet nothing to do.

But there is still one point that I believe needs emphasis before we close the subject. Through feeling our own shortcomings, we mothers rely too much on printed opinion in matters of child training. We should believe that our motherhood gives us a better knowledge of our own children than the wisest man in the world can have. Not that we do not need advice. Some such works as Spencer's Education and Brook's Mental Science and Culture used as handbooks in the training of her children. The point I wish to emphasize is, that we must reserve the right to differ from any and every author in our own particular case; for ready-made ideas, like ready-made clothes, usually have to be altered somewhat to fit the individual. We may not differ. Their views may meet our own exactly. They may say things that we have never thought of, but that we instantly recognize as true. But, if we are working for best results, we must most carefully avoid believing anybody's opinion infallible. Especially is this true in regard to some of our popular women's magazines, which sometimes publish articles that make a thinking woman sick when she realizes the number of other women who will read them as if they were gospel, and practice their pernicious theories on their own offspring.

Did you read an article not long ago in which a mother described how she kept her half-grown daughter in solitude on bread and water, until the girl, unable longer to endure the punishment, came weeping down stairs to throw herself on her knees and beg and plead for forgiveness, and reinstatement in her mother's affections. And did you note how this mother in writing about it plumed herself on her wisdom, and other saintly virtues? Now, I most earnestly believe that that mother who deliberately helps to break down her child's self-esteem by solitary confinement in disgrace, and by requiring the mental and physical attitude of a slave in her plea for forgiveness of a fault (and no mere child can commit a fault that deserves so severe a punishment) is little better than a monster. And any mother that lets her daughter think for one single instant that the mother-love is lessened by anything the child does, is slowly but surely losing her hold upon that child. Fortunately indeed is such a mother if she finds her daughter still looking upon her as best confidant and adviser, at the time she most needs a mother's counsel. Yet I do not doubt that many unthinking women who read that article were deceived by its sophistry, and perhaps sighed over what they considered their own too great leniency with their children.

I cannot forbear an illustration of the acceptance of anything printed as true, it so exactly shows my meaning. At one time our telephone number was wrongly recorded in the directory and we were a good deal harassed by people calling for the members of another family. Three times in one day did an unknown lady ring me up and ask precisely the same question, receiving precisely the same answers. Our conversation ran about like this:

"Is this No. blank?"
"Yes."
"Is Mrs. So-and-So there?"
"You have the wrong number."
At the fourth time the now familiar voice asked the now familiar questions. I replied, perhaps a trifle tartly, "I have already told you three times today that this is not Mrs. So-and-So's residence."
"Yes, but it is," quite as tartly replied the unknown. "It is bound to be, for it is that way in the book."

Let us not then be like this lady, who evidently thought that a book, any book, even a telephone directory, was bound to be right, just because it was printed.

In conclusion then, if we teach our girl from infancy to use her eyes and ears, memory and reason, to the best possible advantage, if we train her, ourselves, in the virtues by which humanity must ever continue to rise, if we give her the essential home training by letting her help as a privilege, if we be "bold, bold, but not too bold" in taking expert educational advice, we can safely trust the remainder of our daughter's education to good teachers. And we may be reasonably sure that that education will be practical, and make for a high degree of efficiency.

Ends Winter's Troubles.

To many, winter is a season of trouble. The frost-bitten toes and fingers, chapped hands and lips, chilblains, cold-sores, red and rough skins, prove this. But such troubles fly before Bucklen's Arnica Salve. A trial convinces. Greatest healer of Burns, Boils, Piles, Cuts, Sores, Bruises, Eczema and Sprains. Only 25c at Amarillo Drug Store.

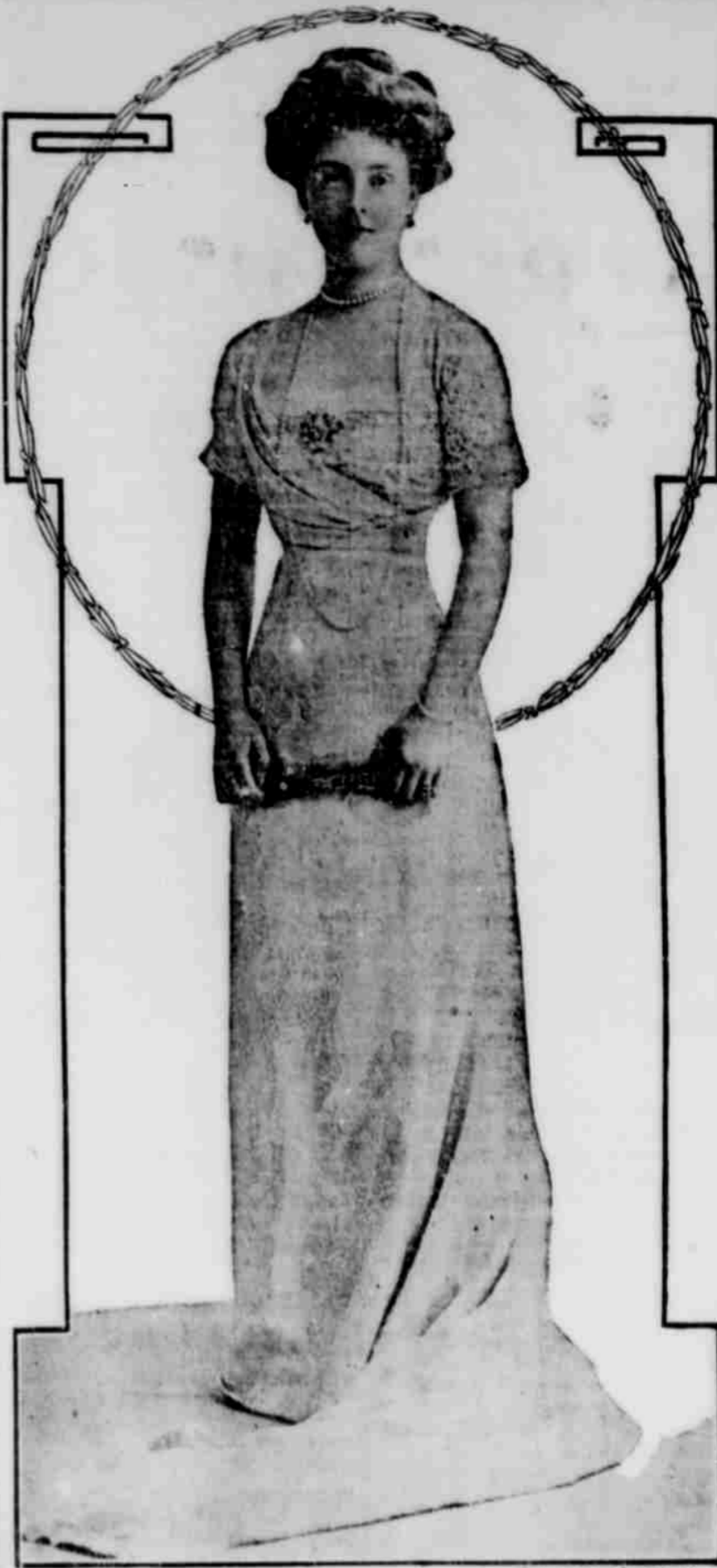
To My Friends and Customers.

This is to request those of you who are indebted to me to please call and settle by Jan. 1. After this date I will not grant further accommodations to those who do not heed this notice.

J. B. BEARD.

Douglas Shoes and Clothing.

BEAUTIFUL COUSIN OF GEORGE V



Among the royal women of Europe, H. R. H. Princess Alexander of Teck, yields the palm to none in the matter of personal beauty. She is first cousin of King George of England, and a direct descendant of Queen Victoria.

Personals

Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Beard, Jr., accompanied by their children, are in Amarillo from Frederick, Oklahoma, where the former is cashier of the First National Bank, for a visit with their brother and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Will A. Miller, Jr.

J. M. Jones left Sunday for Valley View, Texas, where he will spend the

holidays with his parents.

Miss Virginia Lewis of Shelbyville, Kentucky, is in Amarillo to spend the holidays with Dr. and Mrs. J. E. Nunn at 1000 Harrison street.

Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Trigg are spending the holidays with their daughter, Mrs. W. D. Twichell.

If you want quick cab service, phone the Amarillo Cab. Co. 31-26c

If you want quick cab service phone 49. Amarillo Cab Co. 31-26c

NOTES FROM THE LABOR WORLD.

In Bavaria women work on the railroads as section hands.

The Pasadena, Cal., Labor Temple association has taken the first steps for the erection of a labor temple to cost \$50,000.

The annual convention of the International Brotherhood of Bricklayers will be held in St. Joseph, Mo., commencing on January 15.

Since 1869 the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners has paid in benefits of various kinds the considerable sum of \$18,159,190.

Owing to labor disputes of all kinds in the United Kingdom during the past year, workmen lost time aggregating in all to about 9,722,800 days.

The butchers and meat cutters of Sacramento, Cal., have organized into a union with a large membership. It is affiliated with the federated trades.

Representative Frank Buchanan of Chicago, former president of the International Association of Bridge and Structural Iron Workers, has introduced nine labor bills. These effect postal employees, old age pensions, employers' liability and other matters touching labor.

The department of agriculture and the department of commerce and labor, at Washington, D. C., are having prepared films for moving pictures illustrative of a number of leading industries, for the education of the people in all parts of the country. The films will soon be ready for distribution.

The attorney-general of the State of Massachusetts has recently given an opinion against the system of grading practiced in many of the textile mills of that State. It is claimed that, in reality, this system is but another form of fining, a practice which is prohibited under the laws of the State.

The United Textile Workers of America, at their last convention decided after considerable discussion to affiliate with the International Federation of Textile Workers' Associations. The membership of the International Federation is estimated at 439,000 and its headquarters are in England.

Seventeen States make it mandatory for employers to report all accidents to an authorized State official, so that accurate vital statistics can be readily obtained for the further advice and information of the people as to the needs of additional legislation for the conservation of life and limb.

The building trades in Switzerland have been unusually active this year, all classes of labor being well employed at remunerative wages. The cost of living has increased materially, but there has been little complaint on the part of the laboring classes, for the reason that wages have increased in proportion.

The son of General Reyes is doubtful as to the present whereabouts of his father. To the casual observer it looks like the old man might be up in the air.

Table delicacies, the quality you can depend upon. Griffin Grocery. 35-11c

Through an error, this store failed to present Christmas Greetings in Daily News of Sunday.

We trust it is none too late to wish you joys of the season—we know it is none too late for us to express to you our deep appreciation of your patronage and friendship.

THE FAIR STORE.